

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2497

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR FAS GRAIN AND FEED/FCA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EC, ECON, FR

SUBJECT: GRAIN TRADE INTELLIGENCE

REF: BRUSSELS 7390

1. ALL REPORTS GLEANED FROM GRAIN TRADE AND COOPS IN FRANCE POINT TO TOUGH NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN USSR AND EC ON GRAIN PURCHASES. LARDINOIS REPORTEDLY NOT KEEN TO JUMP AT RUSSIAN PURCHASE OFFER FOR FEAR OF INFLATIONARY IMPACT IN EC. HE IS AWAITING LATEST COLLECT DATA BEFORE APPROVING PURCHASES.

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2. IN FRANCE, INTERVENTION WHEAT STOCK REPORTEDLY

325,000 TO 400,000 MT WITH ADDITIONAL 800,000 MT WHEAT CURRENTLY FROZEN. THIS FROZEN WHEAT COULD BE RELEASED FROM HANDS OF "APPROVED COLLECTORS" WITHOUT MUCH DIFFICULTY, IF FRANCE AND EC DECIDED IT IN THEIR INTEREST TO SELL.

3. ONE LARGE TRADE COMPANY SOURCE REPORTS HE ESTIMATES USSR PLANNING PURCHASE ONE MILLION MT PACKAGE OF WHEAT, BARLEY, AND CORN WITH FINAL DECISION TO BE MADE AT END OF WEEK. OTHER SIMILAR SOURCE LOOKS FOR ONLY 300,000 MT SALE OF BARLEY BY FRANCE TO USSR.

4. WE JUST LEARNED LARGE HIGH LEVEL FRENCH TEAM COMPOSED DIRECTOR, ONIC, LARGE COOP LEADERS, AND MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS AS WELL AS OTHERS DEPARTED FOR MOSCOW AUGUST 25 TO NEGOTIATE GRAIN SALE. WE UNDERSTAND LARGE PRIVATE FIRMS NOT REPEAT NOT REPRESENTED ON TEAM, ALTHOUGH SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS NOT PRECLUDED.

5. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, NORMAL PROCEDURE FOR SALE INVOLVES FIRST REACHING OF AGREEMENT BY COOP OR PRIVATE TRADE FIRM WITH IMPORTER. REQUEST IS THEN CHanneled THROUGH ONIC (CEREAL BOARD) WHICH REFERS IT TO BRUSSELS FOR APPROVAL.

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